



## April Activities:

4/2 ~ Executive Board Meeting

4/9 ~ April Meeting (see page 2)

4/25 ~ Book Sale (see page 6)

Visit our website [WWW.GFVCVIA.com](http://WWW.GFVCVIA.com) for the current calendar. Our club email: [viagfvc@gmail.com](mailto:viagfvc@gmail.com)

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VIAGreenCoveSprings>

**VIA Meetings** are on the 2nd Thursday of each month at our clubhouse ~ 17 N. Palmetto Avenue, Green Cove Springs.

The women of the VIA focus on service to the community. We strive to impact lives through our actions, both large and small, and build lasting friendships along the way.

VIA is a member of the **General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC)** and **GFWC Florida**.



## President's Message

I can hardly believe we are entering the end of the first quarter of 2026. I am also amazed at the amount of service and fun we seem to be able to pack into a month. March was full of activities, and we were able to submit the names of 4 new members to the **GFWC** and **District 4 Recruitment Challenges**. We've tried some new things as well as made additions and improvements to some of the things we have been doing all along.

Our March Meeting was awesome. I have to say again how "blown away" I am every time I see the room decorated by our committees. The creativity and the unique ideas always take my breath away. I love the way each committee celebrates their own area of service and gives so much attention to each detail. It was so creative, too, to use the centerpieces as raffle prizes. I also loved that the gift for our speaker was so relative to the topic.

We are growing because we support each other and welcome new ideas! I can feel the enthusiasm when our ladies walk into the building. I know we have all been very busy and focused. I also know our April meeting is going to be awesome, as well. I love the impact we are making on our community. We have become an integral part of so many organizations and community outreach programs. I am so proud of all of you for your enthusiasm and your amazing work ethic.

**Larianne**  
[l.stutts@aol.com](mailto:l.stutts@aol.com)



## April 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting 2026



The April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting will be presented by the VIA for the **GFWC Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention.**

As you know, our current District 4 Director's project was the support of Villages of Hope. This led to our Day of Service focusing on Human Trafficking and how it impacts our own community. We commend our ladies for taking such an active role in bringing about awareness for this important issue, and for recognizing its impact in our own community. We are very excited to have some important topics to cover, and we hope to have interested guests join us as well.

Our focus will be **Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) 2026** in April which marks the 25th Anniversary of the campaign with the theme "25 Years Stronger: Looking Back, Moving Forward". SAAM is an annual campaign that unites survivors, advocates, and communities to raise awareness about sexual assault, abuse, and harassment, and to promote prevention and support for survivors.

**Needed ~ local business gift cards (Walmart, Walgreens, Target) as well as gas cards for Quigley House clients ♥ Please bring your much appreciated donation to April's meeting.**

## Quigley House donations



The Quigley House accepted these items for their upcoming pickleball tournament from the VIA which totaled \$130.



Continue to contact Janey with donations of clothing in good condition.

## March 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting 2026

The **Environment Committee** hosted the March meeting and it was a grass! Opps, we mean blast! **Doug Conkey with the St. Johns River and Management District** spoke to the ladies about a wide variety of topics including services they provide and current issues our local environment is experiencing. The ladies had some amazing questions for him, and all gained so much knowledge on his areas of expertise.

The brunch was top notch. We raised funds by raffling the beautiful centerpieces sourced by local plants and vases that were donated (recycled!). Also donated three plants that ended up being a hide and go seek game to win.



All in all, we indulged in good food, wonderful companionship and learned ways we can use our valuable resources in a more responsible way.

**Submitted by Christy McCarthy**



More meeting pictures are on page 5.

## District 4 Meeting and Awards

Four members of the VIA attended the March 20<sup>th</sup> D4 Meeting at the **GFWC Woman's Club of Starke** which consisted of District business and the Awarding of Certificates for the D4 2025 Report Writing year. VIA earned many certificates in their Category 3 (clubs of 51-79) members.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Place

- Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention
- President's Project: Flight of Honor
- Human Trafficking
- Membership
- WHRC
- ESO
- Legislation/Public Policy
- Arts and Culture
- Education and Libraries
- Health and Wellness
- Newsletter



### 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

- Leadership
- Communications and Public Policy
- Environment

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

- Civic Engagement and Outreach
- Fundraising



More pictures are on the website ~ Events, Event Photos

## Clay County Education Foundation Donation

The **Education and Libraries Committee** says thank you to the **Clay County Education Foundation** for the much appreciated donation to the VIA to disperse to the Charles E. Bennett School. Included were 21 books, 6 book bags, 65 pencils, 334 stickers, 35 journals with a total in-kind donation of \$795.00.

**We love our collaborations!**



## Have you Visited the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor?

These beautiful historical framed photos are on display at the **GCS Courthouse 4<sup>th</sup> floor**. They will be auctioned off July 2-4. These are but a sampling of what there will be to offer. Watch for updates. And join with VIA members on March 24 @ 3:00pm for a field trip to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor.



## GFWC Florida Clubwoman Newsletter

See what is happening in Florida. Read messages from your Florida leaders. Every Monday a digital issue is delivered to your email.

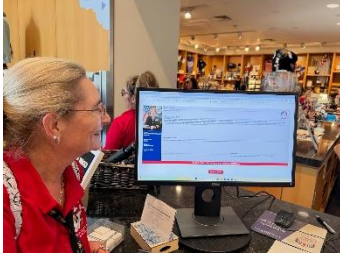
Suscribe ~ <https://www.gfwcflorida.org/contact>

VIA in the **GFWC Florida Clubwoman** March 16<sup>th</sup> edition →



Children at the **VIA Federated Woman's Club of Green Cove Springs, Florida** Page Turners Book Club at Augusta Savage Community Center on March 4<sup>th</sup> practiced a little scene from Jack and the Beanstalk, complete with Jack, his mother, and the cow. The story came to life with these actors using fun masks as props.

# GFWC Florida Flight of Honor



**Marnie Buchanan** (Veteran) and **Donna Shibley** (Guardian) were thrilled to be able to go on this historic all-women Veteran flight to Washington DC on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Kuddos to **GFWC Florida President, Sara Dessureau** whose President's Project 100% funded this trip, President's Project Chairmen Ronda Carney, and all the GFWC Florida clubs who contributed, including the VIA. There were 121 veterans, 25 guardians and 13 support personnel on the flight, totaling 159.



The night before there was a meet and greet hosted by the **Woman's Club of Lakeland** and a trip briefing. Leaving Lakeland Linder Airport very early in the morning on Wednesday, the jam-packed day trip included visiting the Lincoln Memorial where **Florida Senator Ashley Moody** joined the group for a photo op, there was time to see other memorials, then off to a presentation and lunch at the Military Women's Memorial in Arlington Cemetery as well as respectfully viewing the solemn Changing of the Guard ceremony, and a very patriotic welcome home celebration back in Lakeland. This day of reflection, recognition, and remembrance reflected the GFWC Florida mission in action: honoring service, uplifting women, and creating meaningful impact in our communities and beyond. View pictures ~ <https://join.photocircleapp.com/NWGH6K0N27>



*From Marnie: The opportunity to meet and share stories with such a diverse group of veterans from throughout Florida was phenomenal! It meant so much to me to have the support from my fellow VIA sisters to be selected to participate in this heartwarming experience. It was truly an honor and privilege to participate in this humbling and historic Flight of Honor.*



# Health and Wellness

There are many causes to support in **April**:

- World Autism Awareness Day ~ April 2
- World Health Day ~ April 7
- National Stress Awareness Month
- April is Women's Eye Health and Safety Month
- April is National Donate Life Month



Register to be an **organ, eye and tissue donor**. More than 100,000 people are waiting for a lifesaving transplant.

Transplants rely on the generosity of organ, eye and tissue donors and there are not enough donors to meet the need. You can help. Sign up to be a donor. Encourage others to sign up.

♥ Remember mindfulness. Put together a puzzle, paint, smell the roses. ♥  
 Continue to save those puzzles you wish to donate ~ see Cheryl. ♥

## More March Meeting pictures



All March meeting pictures are on our VIA website ~ Events, March Meeting.

## Many Hands Make the Work Light

When called to action, the ladies of the VIA come through with rubber gloves, soapy water and loads of elbow grease. All 80 blue chairs were cleaned and refreshed, with a few even sewn in tattered spots.



The next cleaning project will be in April when we tackle the windows and blinds. Swiffers are still needed. Reach out to Sharon to offer a hand.



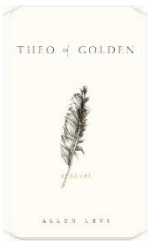
## ESO (Epsilon Sigma Omicron) Sorority Happenings



The Green Cove Springs Branch of the **Clay County Public Library** was the site for the ESO meeting on March 19th. Nine attendees took a behind-the-scenes tour of the library, discovered the new tea shelf, and learned the many ways the library supports the community. Our hands-on creativity with a unique paint craft was fun and relaxing. The group topped off the evening at “Roger That” for a lively book discussion sharing recently read books.



## VIA One Read with ESO (Epsilon Sigma Omicron) ~ You are Invited!



The ESO Book Club warmly invites all VIA members to join in a shared reading experience. Reading the same book together creates a common thread-sparking conversation, connection, and new perspectives. As we experience **Theo of Golden** by **Allen Levi** we hope it will deepen our appreciation for small-town life, relationships, and perhaps even help us see our community with fresh eyes. Each month from April to November we will offer monthly themes and light activities. In December we will gather to share insights, favorite moments, and conversation.

### April - Entering the Story

Focus: First impressions of place and tone

Activity: Take a short walk around your neighborhood; notice the small details – homes, trees, sounds, people that give our community its unique sense of place. Jot down a few observations or reflections.

## VIA Members Support the Green Cove Springs Preservation Society



On Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> members of the VIA supported the Green Cove Springs Preservation Society's **Vintage Beauty with a Bite** Fashion Show. The GCS Preservation Society is committed to conserving and promoting the historical legacy of our city. They strive to educate, inspire, and engage our community in our preservation efforts ~ a successful and beautiful event held in our clubhouse. More pictures are on page 9.



Calling All Book Lovers

# Book Sale



Fundraiser

Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>  
10 am - 2 pm

VIA Clubhouse  
17 N Palmetto Ave  
Green Cove Springs

Paperbacks \$1  
Hardcovers \$2

CASH  
ONLY!

Books for all interests and age groups!



Village Improvement Association  
WOMAN'S CLUB

Proceeds to benefit the VIA Woman's Club of Green Cove Springs, a nonprofit serving the GCS community for over 140 years.

Rentals of our beautiful historic clubhouse also provide funding for our community service. For rental information, please contact Christy at [gcsvirental@gmail.com](mailto:gcsvirental@gmail.com)

## Did You Know?

Since its inception, **GFWC** has advocated passionately for the advancement of women and children through education. Education is the one thing that has the potential to level the playing field for all Americans. Every community in every state and region of the country is impacted.

According to the American Library Association, **GFWC is credited with founding approximately 474 free public libraries and 4655 traveling libraries.**

Supporting local libraries continues to be one of GFWC's priorities today GFWC promotes education for both children and adults. Projects in the Education and Libraries Community Service Program are designed to foster schools and other educational institutions and opportunities, and promote libraries, literacy, and reading good books.

Through these efforts, we encourage the growth of individuals and communities at home and around the world.

Donate books to help this Fundraiser be a success.  
Contract April.



## VIA Member birthdays

### April:

- 6 ~ Raeanne McCarty
- 8 ~ April Pearson
- 14 ~ Gale Miller
- 15 ~ Bonnie Sprinkle
- 18 ~ Tiffani Pearson
- 25 ~ LaToya Glenn

### May:

- 5 ~ Tara Green
- 9 ~ Dawn Mahnken
- 16 ~ Carol Bendlin
- 18 ~ Tonia Everitt
- 19 ~ Lynn Elliott
- 26 ~ Terry Wilson



## Support Villages of Hope



Don't be fooled on April Fool's Day  
The VIA loves its members and its dedication to its members is "no joke".

## VIA Headquarters Rental

Our historic 1914 cottage is available to rent for YOUR next party. Have a special occasion such as a Birthday Party, Anniversary Celebration, Wedding, Family Gathering, Graduation or Baby Shower?

**Members task! Anytime the opportunity rises, please share info about our clubhouse.**

For more information contact:

Christy McCarthy @ [gcsviarental@gmail.com](mailto:gcsviarental@gmail.com)

### The Village Improvement Association Venue Rental

17 Palmetto Avenue  
Green Cove Springs

[gcsviarental@gmail.com](mailto:gcsviarental@gmail.com)  
Christy- 904.860.2597

#### Host Your Event in Historic Elegance

Perfect for showers, receptions, parties, graduations, and business gatherings, the Village Improvement Association's historic clubhouse is the perfect place to bring people together.

Affordable, welcoming, and full of character, this Green Cove Springs treasure is ideal for family celebrations, milestone events, and professional gatherings.

Every rental helps our nonprofit continue serving the community—140+ years strong!

Reserve your space and celebrate with purpose. Book your date today!



<https://gfwcvia.com>



## Village Improvement Association Federated Women's Club of Green Cove Springs, FL, Inc. Executive Board



**President:** Larianne Stutts

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**Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO):**

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**Civic Engagement & Outreach Committee:**

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**Education & Libraries Committee:**

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**Environment Committee:**

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**Health & Wellness Committee:**

Cheryl Gonzalez

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**Building Maintenance Committee:**

Sharon Nellis

**Building Rental Committee:**

Christy McCarthy

**Membership Committee:** Pam Harris

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**Communications & Public Relations**

**Committee:** Donna Shibley

[dmshibley@gmail.com](mailto:dmshibley@gmail.com)

**Newsletter articles** are due by the 18<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please email them to:

[l.stutts@aol.com](mailto:l.stutts@aol.com) and [dmshibley@gmail.com](mailto:dmshibley@gmail.com)

*All submissions must represent VIA supported events and activities.*

Larianne Stutts, Newsletter Editor

Donna Shibley, Newsletter Design & Layout

**Facebook postings** are managed

by Tracy Hardy and Donna Shibley.

Reach out to them for any suggested VIA postings.



## “The House That Built {Us}”

This past year, we have been able to make some significant improvements and repairs to our house. This has been possible because of the hard work and dedication of each of you. This past year, we made more money from our fundraising efforts than we did from our rentals. I honestly think that is more about our enthusiasm than about the quality of our fundraising efforts. I say that because we have always had great ideas for fundraising, but this past year, we have exerted so much energy and enthusiasm, and our community is excited to see what we are doing! Our last few members have joined because of our activity level and our zest for life.



Our clubhouse is our greatest asset, besides each other. I love seeing it all “dressed up” and I am so grateful to each of you for your efforts. I was so excited the day I walked in and saw so many beautiful ladies happily cleaning our chairs! Working together

for a common cause is so rewarding, and also very bonding. I’m sure that is the way our



“founding” clubwomen felt, and it is the way our future generations of clubwomen will feel as well. **Larianne**

← Future generations:  
All “dressed up” for the  
Vintage Beauty with a Bite

Fashion show ~ bride Alexis and flower girl Lilion Stutts.

## VIA History



The VIA has been having a lot of “tea parties” lately. Were you aware that tea parties were an important part of the clubwomen’s lives as early as the 1900’s? These gatherings were often held in tea rooms or homes and allowed women to bypass social restrictions to facilitate political action and community service planning. A tea party is likely where talk of women’s suffrage first began, and they fostered connections for civic improvement and educational efforts.



Tea parties were the main gatherings of women when they wanted to plan without the involvement of their husbands. They created their own dainty “cookery” and they also allowed women to plan careers in hospitality and business without the direction or input of their husband’s.



Haven’t we evolved? And doesn’t this sound parallel to our tea parties today, here at the VIA? The VIA of the 1914 began their work with tea parties, too, and used them to raise funds for their projects and gather interest and input from other women.

**Larianne**





## Member/Family Businesses

### Accounting/Tax Services

- Susan Hess CPA, P.A. | 904-500-2100

### Auto Body Shop

- Darren's Custom & Restoration Body Shop | Darren Stutts | 904-509-2420

### Beauty

- Rodan & Fields Skin Care Consultant | Larianne Stutts | 904-251-4995

### Financial Advisor

- Hess Financial Group | John Hess | 904-269-8772
- VyStar Investment Services | Raeanne McCarthy | 904-908-2495

### Gifts

- Nikki's Custom Gifts | Nikki Glanville | 904-476-2475

### Home Care

- Assisting Hands Home Care | Tracy Hardy | 904-746-1036

### Interior Design/Home Staging

- Interiors Revitalized | Christy McCarthy | 904-860-2597

### Pet Services

- Jen's Pet Sitting Service | Jenifer Dunnivant | 904-657-4460

### Outdoor

- Space Coast Green Fence and Gates | Teresa Moore | 904-678-7754

### Realtor

- Exit Magnolia Point Realty | Christina Treadway | 904-548-7775

### Restaurant

- Corner Pocket | Cheri Starnes | 904-548-7775

### Scents

- Scentsy | Jo Potter | 541-279-0595

### Specialty Women's Clothing

- One Swanky Chic Boutique | Kristina Byrd | 904-671-3819

### Web Design Development and Photos

- Unicorn Web Development / BOH Entertainment | Bobbi Nagle | 904-891-4538



Let's support the businesses of our members and their spouses!

